

humility as their physician. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Dr. Vazeen for his outstanding work and selfless commitment to his patients in our State's capital.

Dr. Vazeen has served on several industry-related boards, such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. Dr. Vazeen has also performed charitable cataract surgery in developing countries and has hosted multiple speaking seminars at the Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital in Bangladesh. Additionally, Dr. Vazeen was a pioneer in the establishment of a teaching exchange program between the University of California, Davis and the Islamia Institute, which facilitates developmental training for medical students finishing their residencies. Dr. Vazeen's years of service and commitment to helping others is truly inspiring and praiseworthy.

I am grateful for Dr. Vazeen's dedication to the people of Nevada. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and should be proud of his hard work that highly benefits many Nevadans. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Vazeen, and I give my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada a better place. I offer him my best wishes for many fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DALE SANDSTROM

● Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dale Sandstrom, who is retiring from the North Dakota Supreme Court after 24 years of devoted service.

Justice Sandstrom is a fifth-generation North Dakotan. Born in Grand Forks, he grew up in Fargo and graduated first from North Dakota State University and then from the University of North Dakota School of Law.

After law school, Justice Sandstrom began his career in public service. He came to Washington, DC, to work under Senator Milton R. Young, who was North Dakota's 15th Senator and, for a time, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate.

Justice Sandstrom returned to North Dakota to work on the North Dakota Criminal Justice Commission. He then served for 6 years as assistant attorney general and headed the office's Consumer Fraud and Antitrust Division. In 1981, North Dakota Governor Allen I. Olson appointed Justice Sandstrom to his cabinet as the State securities commissioner.

Two years later, in 1983, Justice Sandstrom was appointed to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, a position to which he was elected in 1984 and then reelected to in 1990. During his tenure on the commission, he served two terms as its president.

In 1992, Justice Sandstrom was elected to the North Dakota Supreme Court. He was reelected to two 10-year terms in 1996 and 2006 and was a member of the court during my time as Governor of North Dakota.

Justice Sandstrom chairs the North Dakota Supreme Court's Joint Procedure Committee and the North Dakota Advisory Commission on Cameras in the Courtroom. He is also a member of the court's Joint Committee on Attorney Standards and is a past chairman of the court's Technology Committee, the North Dakota Judicial Conference, and the North Dakota Judges Association.

North Dakotans have tremendous access to justice, and the State is a leader in court technology because of Justice Sandstrom's work. In 1996, he created the court's award-winning website, and in 2011, North Dakota became the first State in the country to have its entire trial court system on an electronic record system.

Justice Sandstrom is married to Gail Hagerty, who is a judge for the North Dakota South Central Judicial District. Together, they have three children and live in Bismarck.

Throughout his life, Justice Sandstrom has distinguished himself through his example of integrity and hard work, especially during his tenure on the North Dakota Supreme Court. He has shown not only outstanding knowledge of law, but also wisdom in applying it. He has been a mentor to his law clerks, as well as the State bar.

Outside of his work on the court, Justice Sandstrom is an active member in the Bismarck community. An Eagle Scout, he remains active in scouting and received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award for his involvement.

We honor Justice Sandstrom for his excellent work, and we celebrate his achievements. His efforts have made our State a safer and better place to live, and we commemorate him for his dedication to the people of North Dakota. The court has been well-served by his thoughtful opinions from the bench, and North Dakota will always be grateful for his service to our State.●

TRIBUTE TO CYRIL KOFI GUNU

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Cyril "Kofi" Gunu, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kofi is a graduate of Brandon High School in Brandon, SD. He attends Augustana University in Sioux Falls, where he studies economics and political science. He is a positive and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kofi for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

VERMONT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATION 2016 AWARDS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, to commemorate Public Recognition

Week, the Vermont Federal Executive Association—VTFEA—recognized the more than 4,000 Federal employees working across the State and the good work they do every day. I would like to offer special congratulations to the 2016 Excellence in Government award winners, who have been recognized by VTFEA for their exemplary government service: Vermont Federal Team of the Year Award, The Northwest Vermont Locality Pay Committee—Brandon Ackel, Transportation Security Administration; Robert Brugman, National Credit Union Administration; Brian Johansson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Kelly Larsen, Federal Aviation Administration, Alaska; Bruce McDonald, Transportation Security Administration; Sean McVey, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Mark Nielsen, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Jeff Ostlund, Transportation Security Administration; Corey Price, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Texas; Lisa Rees, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Diana Richardson, Federal Aviation Administration; Krista Scheele, Transportation Security Administration.

In November 2012, VTFEA discussed what initiatives would benefit the most Federal employees, and it didn't take long to realize that securing locality pay for Vermont was the No. 1 priority. In early 2013, VTFEA created a Locality Pay Committee, consisting of employees from six Federal agencies. Working tirelessly, the team prepared a locality pay proposal for northwest Vermont and, in December 2013, presented it to the Federal Salary Council in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, the first proposal was denied, so the following year, they tried again. Again, the proposal was denied. Not to be discouraged, the team drafted a third proposal in November 2015, and committee members traveled to Washington at their own expense to support the package and their fellow Vermonterers. At the hearing, the council approved the package, which is waiting for approval by the President's pay agent and the President. The Northwest Vermont Locality Pay Committee's tenacity, collaborative spirit, and positivity is why Vermont is being considered for locality pay. And it is because of their efforts that VTFEA chose them as Federal Team of the Year.●

TRIBUTE TO SETH DIASIO

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Seth DiAsio, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Seth is a graduate of the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, having earned a degree in studio art. Currently, he is attending American University Washington College of Law, where he is focusing on the law of intellectual property. Seth is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.